



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

LENTEN EXHORTATION

God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love - the discipline of Lent - help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2018

12:10PM (COMMUNION) & 6:10PM



A LENTEN JOURNEY USING
"THE CRUCIFIED LIFE: SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS"

"I thirst." (John 19:28)

*Please stand if able

P: Pastor; C: Congregation

ELW – red book

GATHERING

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION - LITANY : PSALM 143

P: Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness; answer me in your righteousness.

C: Do not enter into judgement with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

P: For the enemy has pursued me, crushing my life to the ground, making me sit in darkness like those long dead.

C: Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.

P: I remember the days of old, I think about all your deeds, I meditate on the works of your hands.

C: I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

P: Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

C: Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

P: Save me, O Lord, from my enemies; I have fled to you for refuge.

C: Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

P: Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.

C: For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life. In your righteousness bring me out of trouble.**All: In your steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am your servant.**

*GATHERING HYMN

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

ELW #781

Verse 1 **Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.**Verse 2 **God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.**Verse 3 **Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
Unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.**Verse 4 **Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Great and Gracious God, we praise you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of heavenly glory to fully become one of us in flesh and bone, in time and space, thus subjecting himself to the wiles temptation and sin, the pain of suffering and death, and the darkness of evil. Humble us always as we ponder your gracious compassion in lowering yourself in the incarnation your Son, so that we might be lifted up through Him, who lives and reigns with you, now and forever. **C: Amen.**WORD

LESSON

John 4:5-15

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

GOSPEL READING

John 19:16b-19, 25b-28

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty."

HOMILY

Rev. Gary Haddock

HYMN OF THE DAY

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

ELW #803

- Verse 1 **When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.**
- Verse 2 **Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.**
- Verse 3 **See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?**
- Verse 4 **Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

***INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

12:10 SERVICE

HOLY COMMUNION

***THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER V**

ELW p. 208

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Traditional

ELW P. 208

SENDING

***BENEDICTION** ELW P. 209

***SENDING HYMN**

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

ELW #742

- Verse 1 **What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege
To carry ev'rything to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear-- All because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!**
- Verse 2 **Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged
Take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness-- take it to the Lord in prayer.**
- Verse 3 **Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior,
Still our refuge--take it to the Lord in prayer. Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer. In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.**

40 DAYS OF GIVING FOR DISASTER RELIEF

The season of Lent is often an occasion for self-reflection, prayer and fasting. Lent is also a time to think about, and do things for those who suffer in our communities. Each year St. Mark's Global Missions Team puts out a challenge to our congregation which impacts many lives. This year's 40 Days of Giving for Disaster Relief is a way to respond to those in the aftermath of disaster. Similar to those who give blood, one pint may not seem like much but it has the potential to save more than one life. Combined with other gifts, the impact can be far reaching. This year we hope to use the funds for wherever we feel is the greatest need. The goal is \$5000. If you wish to donate to the 40 Days of Giving for Global Disaster Response campaign, please write checks to St. Mark's with *40 Days of Giving* on the memo line.



HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF LENT

Though the Scriptures do not mention Lent, it has a longstanding tradition in the Church. It began very simply as a time of preparation for Easter. At first this was a 2-day fast (Friday and Saturday). Though not certain how it developed, by 350 A.D., the 40-day fast was already established. The earliest reference to a 40 day fast leading up to Easter is the Second Festal Letter of Athanasius in 330 A.D. Today, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday (Sundays are excluded to preserve the number 40).

Historically, Lent had two major emphases: 1) It was seen as a time of repentance and denial of self. All Christians were to examine their lives and repent where necessary; and 2) It was a time of instruction and preparation for the catechumens who were preparing themselves to become members of the Christian Church. Lent is an open invitation to enter into a deeper relationship with Christ through a conversion of heart and mind. For the baptized it is a return to their baptism in repentance, confession of sin, amendment of life, through disciplines that deepen and foster one's spiritual life, and acts of self sacrifice that focus our call to service.

Lent is taking up our call to become, as Luther said, "little Christs." The work of lent is a noble work of grace and the Spirit. We are invited and empowered to struggle, grow, and live into who we are called to be, and to become as those joined to Christ in baptism.

LENTEN MID-WEEK SERVICES

"THE CRUCIFIED LIFE: SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS"

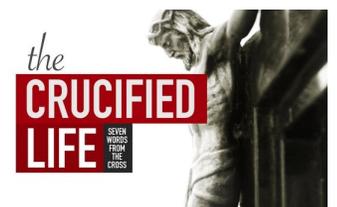
12:10PM SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION

6:10PM SERVICE (PRECEDED BY SUPPER IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER AT 5:20PM)

The observance of Lent evolved over many years in the early church that grew out of preparing candidates to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. It was an extended period of preparation through instruction, examination, and prayer. Candidates explored seriously their identity both as sons and daughters of Adam and Eve under the Law, and more importantly their identity as daughters and sons of Christ given by grace – given by Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit in Holy Baptism.

Our Lenten discipline follows that of the early church. Lent recognizes, by grace through faith, that we are not all who we are called to be nor are we who we are called to become. We all are a work of formation in progress. Our 40 day journey is a call to daily drown, to know and feel contrition for, and to repent – to turn from sin; and a call to put on the mind, character, and attributes of Christ. Both activities – "putting off" sin and "putting on" Christ are the privileges of the baptized granted by grace and the work of the Spirit.

Jesus said to his disciples: "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23) As we take up the discipline of the crucified life for ourselves we will gather at the foot of the cross each week to listen to and to learn from Christ the Crucified in his last seven sayings from the cross. My prayer is that God will renew and transform our lives, will deepen our relationship with Him, and with each other as the body of Christ.



Lenten Midweek Services

- ◆ **Mid-Week 5: Wednesday, March 14**
- ◆ **Midweek 6: Wednesday, March 21**
- ◆ **Good Friday: Friday, March 30 (8pm)**

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" (Luke 23:46)

"It is finished." (John 19:30)